

# Selected Health Status Indicators



**EAST ALABAMA ACTION  
COMMISSION**  
(Region 4)

Jointly produced to assist those seeking to improve health care in rural Alabama

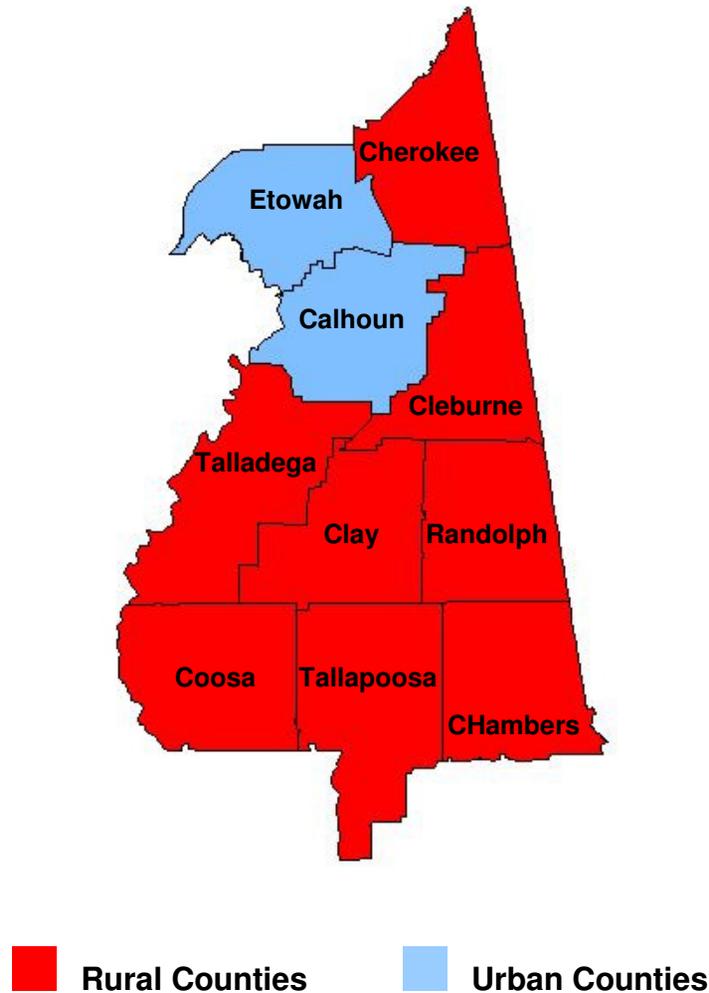
by  
The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health,  
Alabama Department of Public Health  
and  
The Alabama Rural Health Association

Special thanks to the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health and the National Rural Health Association for funding assistance in the production of this publication.

This and other reports in this series can be referenced on-line by visiting the “Reports” section of the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health Web site at <http://adph.org/ruralhealth/> or the “Rural/Urban Comparisons” section of the Alabama Rural Health Association Web site at [www.arhaonline.org](http://www.arhaonline.org)

**October 2007**

# The East Alabama Action Commission Region



This publication defines entire counties as being “rural” or “urban” since most data of interest is available at the county level, but not at sub-county levels. For this specific definition, counties are assigned a score using four major indicators of rurality. These are population per square mile, the size and number of cities in a county, percentage of total employment comprised by employment in public education, and per capita agricultural sales. For additional information on the determination of which counties are considered “rural,” please visit the “What Is Rural?” section at the Alabama Rural Health Association’s Web site, [www.arhaonline.org](http://www.arhaonline.org).

**SELECTED HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS**  
**United States, Alabama, and the East Alabama Action Commission**

Indicators	United States		Alabama		East Alabama Action Commission					
					All Counties		Rural Counties		Urban Counties	
	Number	Pct. of Total	Number	Pct. of Total	Number	Pct. of Total	Number	Pct. of Total	Number	Pct. of Total
<b>2006 Population</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Pct. of Total</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Pct. of Total</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Pct. of Total</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Pct. of Total</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Pct. of Total</b>
Total	299,398,484	100.0	4,599,030	100.0	459,831	100.0	243,566	100.0	216,265	100.0
African American (alone)	38,342,549	12.8	1,211,583	26.3	98,948	21.5	61,640	25.3	37,308	17.3
White (alone)	239,746,254	80.1	3,276,561	71.2	353,543	76.9	178,804	73.4	174,739	80.8
American Indian (alone)	2,902,851	1.0	23,799	0.5	1,528	0.3	695	0.3	833	0.4
Asian (alone)	13,159,343	4.4	41,881	0.9	2,005	0.4	653	0.3	1,352	0.6
Hispanic	44,321,038	14.8	113,890	2.5	8,218	1.8	3,145	1.3	5,073	2.3
Age 19 Years or Less	82,079,106	27.4	1,240,643	27.0	117,662	25.6	62,080	25.5	55,582	25.7
Age 65 Years or More	37,260,352	12.4	615,597	13.4	70,574	15.3	37,839	15.5	32,735	15.1
Age 85 Years or More	5,296,817	1.8	79,530	1.7	9,386	2.0	5,183	2.1	4,203	1.9
<b>Population Change</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Pct. Change</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Pct. Change</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Pct. Change</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Pct. Change</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Pct. Change</b>
1910 – 2000	91,972,266 to 281,421,906	206.0	2,138,093 to 4,447,100	108.0	279,145 to 461,034	65.2	200,921 to 245,326	22.1	78,224 to 215,708	175.8
2000 – 2025 Projected	281,421,906 to 349,695,000	24.3	4,447,100 to 5,385,997	21.1	461,034 to 501,970	8.9	245,326 to 280,920	14.5	215,708 to 221,050	2.5
Age 65+: 2000 – 2025 Projected	34,991,753 to 63,042,500	80.2	579,907 to 999,769	72.4	69,322 to 105,947	52.8	36,890 to 61,845	67.6	32,432 to 44,102	36.0
Hispanic: 1990 – 2006 Estimated	22,354,059 to 44,321,038	98.3	24,629 to 113,890	362.4	2,494 to 8,218	229.5	881 to 3,145	257.0	1,613 to 5,073	214.5
<b>Income Related Indicators</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Population Below Poverty Level – 2004	37,039,804	12.7%	727,308	16.1%	75,988	16.6%	40,510	16.7%	35,478	16.5
Children Under 18 Below Poverty Level - 2004	13,041,492	17.8%	245,017	22.6%	25,005	24.1%	13,244	23.9%	11,761	24.3%
Per Capita Personal Income – 2005	N.A.	\$34,471	N.A.	\$29,623	N.A.	\$26,268	N.A.	\$25,231	N.A.	\$27,439
Medicaid Eligible Population – 2006	N.A.	N.A.	988,677	21.1 %	113,894	24.1%	61,934	24.2%	51,960	23.9%
Medicaid Eligible Children (Under 21) - 2006	N.A.	N.A.	520,256	38.9%	57,583	44.5%	31,440	44.9%	26,143	44.2%
Medicaid Births - 2006	N.A.	N.A.	30,114	49.3%	3,282	58.9%	1,725	62.4%	1,557	55.5%
<b>Access to Health Care Indicators</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure<sup>1</sup></b>
Primary Care Physicians – 2006 (Per 10,000 Pop.)	209,550	7.2	3,044	6.5	260	5.5	108	4.2	152	7.0
Dentists – 2003 (Per 10,000 Pop.)	86,110	2.9 (2006)	1,557	3.5	113	2.5	44	1.8	69	3.2
Psychiatrists – 2006 (Per 10,000 Pop.)	24,730	0.9	298	0.6	12	0.3	0	0.0	12	0.6
Hospital Beds (Per 10,000 Pop.)	N.A.	N.A.	16,917	36.1	1,727	36.5	641	25.1	1,086	50.0
Households With No Vehicle – 2000	10,861,067	10.3%	143,594	8.3%	15,352	8.4%	8,642	9.0%	6,710	7.7%
Uninsured Population - 2003	39,803,527	14.2% (2001)	504,539	11.2%	51,305	11.2%	28,957	11.9%	22,348	10.4%

**SELECTED HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS - continued**  
**United States, Alabama, and the East Alabama Action Commission**

Indicators	United States		Alabama		East Alabama Action Commission					
					All Counties		Rural Counties		Urban Counties	
	Number in 2004	Rate per 100,000 Pop.	Number in 2003 - 2005	Rate per 100,000 Pop.	Number in 2003 - 2005	Rate per 100,000 Pop.	Number in 2003 - 2005	Rate per 100,000 Pop. <sup>1</sup>	Number in 2003 - 2005	Rate per 100,000 Pop. <sup>1</sup>
All Causes	2,397,615	816.5	139,414	1,028.7	16,720	1,217.7	8,735	1,198.8	7,985	1,239.1
Septicemia	33,373	11.4	2,451	18.1	361	26.3	160	22.0	201	31.2
Cancer	553,888	188.6	29,389	216.9	3,442	250.7	1,826	250.6	1,616	250.8
Colon, Rectum, and Anus	53,772	18.3	2,696	19.9	308	22.4	174	23.9	134	20.8
Trachea, Bronchus, and Lung	158,091	53.8	9,286	68.5	1,147	83.5	556	76.3	591	91.7
Breast (female)	40,954	27.5	2,072	29.4	227	32.0	130	34.7	97	28.9
Cervix Uteri (female)	3,850	2.6	241	3.4	24	3.4	15	4.0	9	2.7
Ovary (female)	14,716	9.9	786	11.2	88	12.4	43	11.5	45	13.4
Prostate (male)	29,004	20.1	1,609	24.3	183	27.5	99	27.8	84	27.1
Meninges, Brain, Other Central Nervous System	12,829	4.4	611	4.5	85	6.2	42	5.8	43	6.7
Alzheimer's Disease	65,965	22.5	4,145	30.6	514	37.4	284	39.0	230	35.7
Diabetes Mellitus	73,138	24.9	4,273	31.5	408	29.7	245	33.6	163	25.3
Heart Diseases	675,562	230.1	38,683	285.4	5,026	366.0	2,530	347.2	2,496	387.3
Ischemic Heart Diseases	451,326	153.7	18,789	138.6	2,690	195.9	1,258	172.7	1,432	222.2
Heart Failure	57,120	19.5	6,606	48.7	897	65.3	487	66.8	410	63.6
Cerebrovascular Diseases (Stroke)	150,074	51.1	8,934	65.9	1,070	77.9	588	80.7	482	74.8
Pneumonia	58,564	19.9	3,111	23.0	397	28.9	177	24.3	220	34.1
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	121,987	41.5	7,156	52.8	963	70.1	502	68.9	461	71.5
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	27,013	9.2	1,378	10.2	158	11.5	75	10.3	83	12.9
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, and Nephrosis	42,480	14.5	3,132	23.1	369	26.9	185	25.4	184	28.6
Accidents	112,012	38.1	6,931	51.1	765	55.7	397	54.5	368	57.1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	44,933	15.3	3,480	25.7	392	28.5	207	28.4	185	28.7
Drowning and Submersion	3,308	1.1	187	1.4	18	1.3	12	1.6	6	0.9
Smoke, Fire, and Flames	3,229	1.1	322	2.4	33	2.4	13	1.8	20	3.1
Poisoning and Exposure to Noxious Substances	20,950	7.1	646	4.8	75	5.5	34	4.7	41	6.4
Homicide	17,357	5.9	1,233	9.1	112	8.2	54	7.4	58	9.0
Suicide	32,439	11.0	1,586	11.7	204	14.9	107	14.7	97	15.1

**SELECTED HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS - continued**  
**United States, Alabama, and the East Alabama Action Commission**

Indicators	United States		Alabama		East Alabama Action Commission					
	Number	Measure	Number	Measure	All Counties		Rural Counties		Urban Counties	
					Number	Measure	Number	Measure	Number	Measure
<b>Nativity Related</b>										
Infant Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Births (2004 – 2006)	28,534	6.9	1,646	9.0	136	8.1	76	9.0	60	7.2
Low Weight Births – 2006 (Percent of All Births)	331,772 (2004)	8.1 %	6,616	10.5 %	559	9.8%	310	10.8%	249	8.9%
Births to Teens (10-19) – 2006 (Percent of All Births)	422,043 (2004)	10.3 %	8,670	13.8 %	917	16.1%	486	16.9%	431	15.4%
Births With Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care – 2006 (Percent of All Births)	N.A.	N.A.	14,390	23.1%	1,193	21.1%	553	19.4%	640	22.9%
Tobacco Use During Pregnancy – 2006 (Percent of All Births)	419,429	10.2%	7,394	11.8 %	934	16.4%	491	17.1%	443	15.8%
Births Occurring Outside of the Mother’s County of Residence – 2006 (Percent of All Births)	N.A.	N.A.	20,002	31.8 %	2,161	38.0%	1,640	57.0%	521	18.6%
Births to Undereducated Women – 2006	N.A.	N.A.	11,648	18.6 %	1,229	21.7%	633	22.1%	596	21.2%
<b>Other Indicators</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Age 65+ With “Home Bound” Disability – 2000	6,795,517	19.4 %	139,401	24.0 %	16,878	24.3%	9,042	24.5%	7,836	24.2%
Age 25+ With Less Than High School Education - 2000	35,715,625	19.6 %	714,081	24.7 %	92,247	29.9%	54,814	33.2%	37,433	26.0%
Receiving Medicare Disability – 2003 (Percent of Total Population)	6,079,424	2.2 %	150,573	3.3 %	20,955	4.6%	11,146	4.6%	9,809	4.6%
Obese – 2003 (Percent of Total Population)	Not Comparable	Not Comparable	1,073,329	23.9 %	107,332	23.4%	57,718	23.7%	49,614	23.1%
Accidental Deaths Occurring Outside of a Health Care Facility: 2003-05 (Percent of All Accidental Deaths)	N.A.	N.A.	3,621	52.2 %	394	51.5	213	53.7	181	49.2
Life Expectancy at Birth - 2005	N.A.	77.9 years	N.A.	74.8 years	N.A.	73.7 years	N.A.	74.4 years	N.A.	72.9 years
Sexually Transmitted Disease Cases Reported in 2006 (Per 10,000 Pop.)	1,349,333	45.9	33,463	73.6	3,094	67.5	1,573	64.7	1,521	70.7
Cumulative HIV Cases as of December 31, 2006 (Per 10,000 Pop.)	Not Comparable	Not Comparable	14,737	32.4	940	20.5	488	20.1	452	21.0
Families Being Counseled for Drug Issues by the Alabama Department of Mental Health During FY 2004 (Percent of All Families)	N.A.	N.A.	20,881	1.7 %	1,730	1.3%	961	1.4%	769	1.3%

<sup>1</sup> Rates, percentages, etc based upon fewer than 16 events may not be statistically reliable for specific analyses. Caution should be exercised in using these indicators.

**THIS PUBLICATION IS DESIGNED TO BE USED WITH THE “COUNTY SPECIFIC DATA” PUBLICATION IN IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC COUNTIES WHERE SELECTED INDICATORS MAY BE OF GREATER CONCERN.**

**FOR EXAMPLE: IT IS NOTED THAT THE DIABETES MELLITUS MORTALITY RATE FOR RURAL COUNTIES IN THE EAST ALABAMA ACTION COMMISSION REGION IS 33.6 DEATHS PER 100,000 PERSONS COMPARED TO A RATE OF 25.3 FOR THE URBAN COUNTIES IN THAT REGION.**

**THE USER CAN REFER TO THE “DIABETES MELLITUS MORTALITY” SECTION ON PAGE 12 IN THE “COUNTY SPECIFIC DATA” PUBLICATION WHERE IT CAN BE SEEN THAT THE HIGHEST MORTALITY RATES FOR DIABETES IN THAT COMMISSION REGION ARE IN THE RURAL COUNTIES OF TALLAPOOSA (50.0), COOSA (44.3), AND CHAMBERS (41.3). THERE IS A FOOTNOTE ASKING THE USER TO EXERCISE CAUTION IN USING THE RATE FOR COOSA COUNTY SINCE IT IS BASED ON FEWER THAN 16 DEATHS. SINCE DIABETES IS KNOWN TO BE AN ISSUE OF STATEWIDE CONCERN AND THERE WERE 15 DIABETES DEATHS TO COOSA COUNTY RESIDENTS DURING 2003 THROUGH 2005, THIS WARNING SHOULD NOT DECREASE THE IMPORTANCE OF DIABETES INTERVENTION IN COOSA COUNTY.**

### **Sources of Information and Special Notes**

**2006 Population:** U.S. Census Bureau, County Population Estimates – characteristics; County Population by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2000 through July 1, 2006. <http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/CC-EST2006-alldata.html>

**Population Change 1910-2000:** U.S. Census Bureau, County Population Census Counts 1900-90, <http://www.census.gov/population/cencounts/al190090.txt> for 1910 data; U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data for 2000 data.

**Population Change 2000-2025:** U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data for 2000 data. Alabama State Data Center, Alabama County Population 2000 and Projections 2005-2025 for 2025. [http://cber.cba.ua.edu/edata/est\\_prj.html](http://cber.cba.ua.edu/edata/est_prj.html)

**Age 65+ Population Change 2000-2025:** Alabama State Data Center, Alabama County Population 65 and Over 2000 and Projections 2005-2025 for 2025. [http://cber.cba.ua.edu/edata/est\\_prj.html](http://cber.cba.ua.edu/edata/est_prj.html)

**Hispanic Population Change 1990-2006:** U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Census 1990 Summary File 1 (STF 1) 100-Percent Data for 1990 data. Alabama State Data Center, Estimates of the Hispanic Population by County, 2006. [http://cber.cba.ua.edu/edata/est\\_prj.html](http://cber.cba.ua.edu/edata/est_prj.html)

**Population Below Poverty Level - 2004:** U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/saipe.html>

**Children Under 18 Below Poverty Level - 2004:** U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/saipe.html>

**2005 Per Capita Personal Income:** U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Interactive Tables: Local Area Personal Income, Table CA1-3. <http://www.bea.gov/regional/reis/default.cfm?catable=CA1-3&section=2>

**Medicaid Eligible Population - 2006:** Alabama Medicaid Agency, Alabama Medicaid Statistics by County – 2006. [http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/resources/stats\\_reports.aspx?tab=5](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/resources/stats_reports.aspx?tab=5)

**Medicaid Eligible Children (Under 21) - 2006:** Alabama Medicaid Agency, Alabama Medicaid Statistics by County – 2006.  
[http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/resources/stats\\_reports.aspx?tab=5](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/resources/stats_reports.aspx?tab=5)

**Medicaid Births - 2006:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File.

**Primary Care Physicians in 2006:** Medical Licensure Commission, Licensed Physician Data Base – 2006.  
(In this publication, primary care physicians include family practitioners, internal medicine specialists, pediatricians, and obstetricians and gynecologists.)

**Dentists in 2003:** Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama, Licensed dentists data base - 2003.

**Psychiatrists in 2006:** Medical Licensure Commission, Licensed Physician Data Base – 2006.

**Hospital Beds in 2007:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of Provider Services, Healthcare Facilities Directory – Hospital Section. October 4, 2007.  
[http://ph.state.al.us/facilitiesdirectory/\(S\(ikg10gmph4ih5550hmu4t45\)\)/Default.aspx](http://ph.state.al.us/facilitiesdirectory/(S(ikg10gmph4ih5550hmu4t45))/Default.aspx)

**Households With No Vehicle in 2000:** U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) Sample Data, Table H44 - Tenure by Vehicles Available.

**Uninsured Persons - 2003:** State Health Access Data Assistance Center, Alabama County Chartbook: County-Level Estimates of Uninsurance July 2005. (Prepared for the Alabama Department of Public Health, Children's Health Insurance Program)

**Cause of Death Indicators:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special queries of the 2003, 2004, and 2005 Mortality Statistics Files for Alabama data. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC Wonder Interactive Program, Mortality – Underlying Cause of Death 2004 file. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/>  
(Cause of death data included in this publication is not age-adjusted)

**Infant Mortality Rate - 2004-2006;** Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special queries of the 2004, 2005, and 2006 Birth Statistics Files for birth data. Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Total Resident Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality Rates by County, Alabama, 2006, 2005, 2004, and Combined 2006-2004. <http://adph.org/healthstats/assets/06TotInfantDeaths.pdf>

**Low Weight Births - 2006:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File.  
(Births weighing less than 2,500 grams or 5 pounds and 8 ounces are defined as being of low weight.)

**Births to Teenagers (Age 10-19) - 2006:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File.

**Births With Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care - 2006:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File.  
(The Kotelchuck Index is used in determining adequacy of prenatal care. This index primarily considers the date when prenatal care was begun and the number of visits in determining adequacy.)

**Births With Tobacco Use During Pregnancy - 2006:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File.

**Births Occurring Outside Mother's County of Residence - 2006:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File.  
(This indicator was included because of the serious decline in the number of rural hospitals where obstetrics are performed and the natural relationship between women receiving adequate prenatal care and the presence of obstetrical care in the county.)

**Births to Undereducated Women - 2006:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2006 Birth Statistics File.  
(Women are considered to be "undereducated" when their years of education is at least two years less than what would be expected for someone of their age.)

**Age 65+ With "Home Bound" Disability - 2000:** U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) Sample Data, Table P41 – Age by Types of Disability for the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population 5 Years and Over With Disabilities.

**Age 25+ With Less Than High School Education - 2000:** U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) Sample Data, Table P37 – Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over.

**Persons Receiving Medicare Disability - 2003:** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Medicare County Enrollment, As of July 1, 2003.  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareEnrpts/>

**Obesity - Percent of Population in 2003:** Chronic Disease in Alabama: Past, Present, and Future Trends. Pp. 16-17.  
<http://adph.org/ADMINISTRATION/chronicdisease.pdf>

**Accidental Deaths Occurring Outside of a Health Care Facility - (2003-2005):** Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Special query of the 2003, 2004, and 2005 Mortality Statistics File.  
(This indicator was used in the place of an “emergency medical services emergency ambulance runs” data base. While there is such a data base maintained within the Alabama Department of Public Health, reporting to this data base is not complete and could produce confusing findings. The provision of adequate emergency medical service continues to be a serious issue in most rural Alabama counties.)

**Life Expectancy at Birth - 2005:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, County Health Profiles – 2005.  
<http://www.adph.org/healthstats/Default.asp?id=1521>

**Sexually Transmitted Disease Cases - 2006:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of STD Prevention and Control, Statistics, County Totals – 2006.  
<http://www.adph.org/STD/Default.asp?id=1080>

**Cumulative HIV Cases as of 12/31/2006:** Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control, Statistics, Public Health Area (January – December 2006). <http://www.adph.org/aids/Default.asp?id=984>  
(National data for the cumulative number of HIV cases as of December 31, 2006 is not comparable due to the fact that not all states report this information to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and those that are reporting initiated this reporting at varying times.)

**Families Served by the Division of Substance Abuse Services in the Alabama Department of Mental Health - FY 2004:** Alabama Department of Mental Health, Department’s Annual Report, ’03-’04. p35. [http://www.mh.alabama.gov/downloads/AnnualReports/ADMH\\_AnnualReport\\_03\\_04Part3.pdf](http://www.mh.alabama.gov/downloads/AnnualReports/ADMH_AnnualReport_03_04Part3.pdf)

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